

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 10-14, 17, 19, 20, and 33-78 are active in this application. Support for the amendments to Claims 62, 66, 70, 64, 68, 72 and Claims 74-78 is found on page 3 of this application. In addition, the claims presented have been renumbered according to the Examiner's statement on page 2 of the Official Action. No new matter is added.

Applicants thank the Examiner for indicating that Claims 10-14, 17, 19, 20 and 33-61 are allowed. In light of the following remarks and the attached executed Declarations reconsideration of the rejection of Claims 63-73 is requested.

Applicants also thank the Examiner for the courtesy of discussing this case with Applicants' undersigned representative on March 9, 2004. During this discussion the Examiner suggested amending the scope of the method claims and consistent with that discussion, the claims have been amended to recite inflammatory arthritis, which is described and enabled by the application.

Before getting into the substance of the rejection, Applicants request that the Examiner reconsider the finality of the outstanding Office Action. As a basis for issuing a final Office Action following the request for continued examination, the Examiner states "all claims are drawn to the same invention claimed in the application prior to entry of the submission under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114 and could have been finally rejected on the grounds of art of record in the next Office Action if they had been entered in the application prior to entry under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114." (Page 16 of the Official Action). However, the request for continued examination was filed because the Examiner stated in the Advisory Action of August 19, 2003 (paper No. 29) that the proposed amendments would not be entered because "they raise new issues that would require further consideration and/or search" and particularly "amended and newly added claims raise new issues with respect to the scope of

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